UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23294
17 December 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 16 DECEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PANAMA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries concerning the situation in Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) César PEREIRA BURGOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 16 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries

In my capacity as Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations, I acknowledge receipt of document S/23289 concerning your letter of 13 December 1991 to the Security Council, which you wrote in your capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries.

During the meeting on Friday, 13 December, our delegation requested the floor in order to place on record the position of our Government concerning the statement you proposed. We were not given the floor because many countries had participated, and this fact compels me to send this clarification, with a request that it be circulated among the representatives of the non-aligned countries in New York.

Having maintained splendid relations for many years, the Government of Panama has viewed with concern the development of the situation in Yugoslavia. Without apportioning responsibility for the tragic situation that now exists, we wish to place on record our solidarity with the Yugoslav people and its various ethnic groups.

The nationalities issue has been a complicated element of modern States, and this applies not only to Europe. On the contrary, the potential for such conflict exists in Africa, Asia and America. Specific solutions are conditional, inter alia, on the handling of internal tensions in such a way as to ensure that the principle of self-determination of peoples is applied as humanity expects it to be applied.

My Government is confident that a peaceful solution will be found to the conflict that now ravages your country, but it cannot lay the responsibility on the minorities which are seeking autonomy, nor can it commit itself to supporting the document which was adopted without our participation or support.